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First Named Inventor	Poltorak, Alexander I.
Art Unit	3629
Examiner Name	Mooneyham, Janice A.
Attorney Docket Number	AP IPW001

ENCLOSURES *(Check all that apply)*

- ☐ Fee Transmittal Form
  - ☐ Fee Attached
- ☐ Amendment/Reply
  - ☐ After Final
  - ☐ Affidavits/declaration(s)
- ☐ Extension of Time Request
- ☐ Express Abandonment Request
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement
- ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
- ☐ Reply to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application
  - ☐ Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53
- ☐ Drawing(s)
- ☐ Licensing-related Papers
- ☐ Petition
- ☐ Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application
- ☐ Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address
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- ☐ CD, Number of CD(s) _____
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- ☐ After Allowance Communication to TC
- ☐ Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
- ☑ Appeal Communication to TC **(Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)**
- ☐ Proprietary Information
- ☐ Status Letter
- ☑ Other Enclosure(s) (please Identify below):
  - Reply To Notification Of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief
  - Acknowledgement postcard

Remarks

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm Name	Anatoly S. Weiser, Esq.		
Signature			
Printed name	Anatoly S. Weiser		
Date	1/20/2006	Reg. No.	43,229

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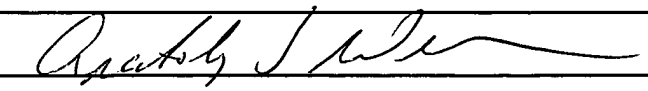
Signature			
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	Art Unit: **3629**
Alexander I. POLTORAK	Examiner: **Janice A. MOONEYHAM**
Serial No.: **09/730,232**	Notification Mailed On: **December 27, 2005**
Filed: **December 5, 2000**	Attorney Docket No.: **AP IPW001**
For: **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR SEARCHING AND SUBMITTING ONLINE VIA AN AGGREGATION PORTAL**	

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On: 1/20/2006 By:
Anatoly Weiser

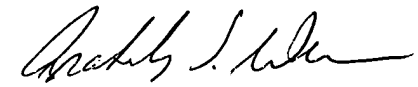
REPLY TO NOTIFICATION OF NON COMPLIANT APPEAL BRIEF

This paper is responsive to the Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief (the "Notification") mailed on the date shown above. The Notification set a one month period for reply. Because this Reply is being filed within the set period, it is timely and no time extension fee is due. If the Applicant's attorney is mistaken in this regard, Applicant conditionally petitions for an appropriate extension of time and authorization is hereby granted to charge all required time

extension fees to Deposit Account No. 50-3196. Authorization is also granted to charge to the same Deposit Account all other fees necessary to file this Reply.

The Notification set forth three reasons for non-compliance of the Appeal Brief. First, the Notification asserted that the Brief does not contain copies of the evidence submitted or entered by the Examiner and relied upon by Appellant in the appeal. Please note that the Appellant is not relying on such evidence and is not aware of existence of such evidence. Second, the Notification asserted that the Brief does not contain copies of the decisions rendered by a court or the Board in the proceedings identified in the Related Appeals and Interferences section of the Brief. Please note that the Related Appeals and Interferences section of the Brief does not identify any such decisions. The undersigned attorney has sought clarification of the first two reasons for non-compliance in at least three telephone calls to the Office, but has not been connected to a person who could discuss this issue and provide such clarification. Third, the Notification asserted that the Brief has not been signed by Applicant's attorney. A signed copy of the Brief is submitted herewith. We note that the transmittal form attached to the original Brief was signed by Applicant's attorney, and request that the Brief be deemed received on the original filing date.

Respectfully submitted,



Dated: January 20, 2006

Anatoly S. Weiser, Reg. No. 43,229
Intellectual Property Legal Counsel
12526 High Bluff Drive, Ste 300
San Diego, CA 92130

OIPE IAP54
JAN 23 2006
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	Art Unit: **3629**
Alexander I. POLTORAK	Examiner: **Janice A. MOONEYHAM**
Serial No.: **09/730,232**	Final Office Action Mailed On: **May 31, 2005**
Filed: **December 5, 2000**	
For: **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR SEARCHING AND SUBMITTING ONLINE VIA AN AGGREGATION PORTAL**	

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On: 1/20/2006 By: Anatoly Weiser

APPEAL BRIEF TO THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

This Appeal Brief is responsive to the rejection in the final Office Action mailed on May 31, 2005 (the "Final Office Action") in the above-referenced patent application. It is being filed within two months of the filing of a Notice of Appeal in this case. Therefore, the Appeal Brief is timely and no time extension fee is due. If the Applicant's attorney is mistaken in this regard, Applicant conditionally petitions for an appropriate extension of time and authorization is hereby granted to

charge all required time extension fees to Deposit Account No. 50-3196. Authorization is also granted to charge to the same Deposit Account all other fees necessary to file this Appeal Brief.

I
REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

In this Appeal, the real party in interest is IP WEALTH, a New York limited liability company, having a place of business at 75 Montebello Road, Suffern, NY 10901.

II
RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Appellant, Assignee, and the undersigned legal representative do not know of any other appeal, interference, or judicial proceeding that is related to, directly affects, is directly affected by, or has a bearing on the decision of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences (the "Board" or the "Board of Appeals") in this Appeal.

III
STATUS OF CLAIMS

The status of claims in the instant application is as follows:

Claims 1-47, 49-53, 66-72, and 86-88 have been rejected and are pending.

Applicants appeal from the rejection of claims 1-47, 49-53, 66-72, and 86-88.

IV
STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

A proposed amendment canceling claim 48 is being filed concurrently with this brief. No other amendments have been filed subsequent to the rejection of claims in the Final Office Action mailed on May 31, 2005.

V
SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

A. Independent Claims

Claim 1

Claim 1 is directed to a method for searching intellectual property listings. The method includes a step of maintaining a user-interface site accessible by a plurality of users. *E.g.*, Specification, page 9, lines 1-11; *id* page 14, lines 7-16; *id* page 17, lines 17-18; and Figure 3A, step 310.

The method further includes establishing a connection to a plurality of third-party sources of intellectual property listings available for transacting. *E.g.*, Specification, page 17, lines 11-15; and Figure 3A, step 315.

The method further includes receiving from at least one of said plurality of users search criteria for searching said plurality of third-party sources of intellectual property listings. *E.g.*, Specification, page 18, lines 3-4; and Figure 3A, step 320.

The method further includes searching said plurality of third-party sources of intellectual property listings according to said search criteria. *E.g.*, Specification, page 18, lines 4-6; and Figure 3A, step 325.

The method further includes presenting a resulting set of intellectual property listings to said at least one of said plurality of users. *E.g.*, Specification, page 18, lines 6-7; and Figure 3A, step 330.

The method further includes receiving from said at least one of said plurality of users an identification of those of said resulting set of intellectual property listings that are of interest to said at least one of said plurality of users. *E.g.*, Specification, page 18, lines 8-9; and Figure 3A, step 335.

Claim 21

Claim 21 is directed to a method of searching intellectual property listings online. The method includes a step of maintaining a user-interface site accessible by a plurality of users. *E.g.*,

Specification, page 9, lines 1-11; *id* page 14, lines 7-16; *id* page 17, lines 17-18; and Figure 3A, step 310.

The method further includes maintaining access to a predetermined set of third-party sources of intellectual property listings searchable online. *E.g.*, Specification, page 17, lines 11-15; and Figure 3A, step 315.

The method further includes eliciting from each user search criteria for searching each of said third-party sources of intellectual property listings. *E.g.*, Specification, page 18, lines 3-4; and Figure 3A, step 320.

The method further includes designating first and second memory storage areas for storage of intellectual property listings. *E.g.*, Specification, page 19, lines 22-23; and Figure 4A, step 410.

The method further includes taking a snapshot of each of said third-party sources of intellectual property listings. *E.g.*, Specification, page 20, line 1; and Figure 4A, step 415.

The method further includes storing said snapshots in said first memory storage area. *E.g.*, Specification, page 20, line 2; and Figure 4A, step 420.

The method further includes reformatting each of said snapshots in a predetermined format. *E.g.*, Specification, page 20, lines 2-3; and Figure 4A, step 425.

The method further includes storing said reformatted snapshots in said second memory storage area. *E.g.*, Specification, page 20, lines 3-4; and Figure 4A, step 430.

The method further includes searching through said reformatted snapshots in said second memory storage area for matches with the user search criteria. *E.g.*, Specification, page 20, lines 18-20; and Figure 4B, step 470.

Claim 39

Claim 39 is directed to a method of searching listings of goods or services available for transacting. The method includes maintaining a user-interface site accessible by a plurality of users. *E.g.*, Specification, page 9, lines 1-11; *id* page 14, lines 7-16; *id* page 17, lines 17-18; and Figure 3A, step 310.

The method further includes establishing a connection to a plurality of third-party sources of said goods or services available for transacting. *E.g.*, Specification, page 17, lines 11-15; and Figure 3A, step 315.

The method further includes receiving from at least one of said plurality of users search criteria for searching said plurality of third-party sources. *E.g.*, Specification, page 18, lines 3-4; and Figure 3A, step 320.

The method further includes searching said plurality of third-party sources according to said search criteria. *E.g.*, Specification, page 18, lines 4-6; and Figure 3A, step 325.

The method further includes presenting a resulting set of goods or services listings to said at least one of said plurality of users. *E.g.*, Specification, page 18, lines 6-7; and Figure 3A, step 330.

The method further includes receiving from said at least one of said plurality of users an identification of those of said resulting set of goods or services listings that are of interest to said at least one of said plurality of users. *E.g.*, Specification, page 18, lines 8-9; and Figure 3A, step 335.

Claim 45

Claim 45 is directed to a system for searching for a desired one of many items offered on the Internet, where said items are presented on third-party user-interface sites in multiple lists, said lists being in differing formats. The system includes means for hosting a user-interface site. *E.g.*, Specification, page 9, lines 2-10; *id* page 13, line 10 through page 15, line 16; *id* page16, lines 10-11; Figure 2B, element 13; and Figure 3A, step 310.

The system further includes means for eliciting at least one identifying characteristic of the desired item from a user. *E.g.*, Specification, page 9, lines 2-10; *id* page 13, line 10 through page 15, line 16; *id* page 16, lines 10-19; and page 18, lines 4-6.

The system further includes means for reformatting said identifying characteristic of the desired item elicited from said user in accordance with the requirements of each of said third-party user-interface sites. *E.g.*, Specification, page 9, lines 2-10; *id* page 13, line 10 through page 15, line 16; page 19, lines 3-7; Figure 2B, element 24; and Figure 3C, step 352.

The system further includes means for searching each of said multiple lists to identify each item listed therein possessing said at least one identifying characteristic and compiling a list thereof. *E.g.*, Specification, page 9, lines 2-10; *id* page 10, line 22 through page 11, line 5; *id* page 13, line 10 through page 15, line 16; *id* page 16, lines 16-18; *id* page 19, lines 7-8; Figure 2B, element 13; and Figure 2B, element 26.

The system further includes means for reformatting at least one of said lists of items possessing said at least one identifying characteristic into a predetermined format. *E.g.*, Specification, page 9, lines 2-10; *id* page 13, line 10 through page 15, line 16; *id* page 19, lines 14-16; *id* page 20, lines 2-9; and Figure 2B, element 24

The system further includes means for presenting said reformatted list to said user for further selection of the desired item. *E.g.*, Specification, page 9, lines 2-10; *id* page 13, line 10 through page 15, line 16; *id* page 18, lines 6-7; *id* page 19, lines 14-16; *id* page 21, lines 6-8; and Figure 2B, element 13.

Claim 49

Claim 49 is directed to a system for searching intellectual property listings online. The system includes means for maintaining a user-interface site accessible by a plurality of users. *E.g.*, Specification, page 9, lines 2-10; *id* page 13, line 10 through page 15, line 16; *id* page16, lines 10-11; Figure 2B, element 13; and Figure 3A, step 310.

The system further includes means for maintaining access to a predetermined set of third-party sources of intellectual property listings searchable online. *E.g.*, Specification, page 9, lines 2-10; *id* page 13, line 10 through page 15, line 16; and *id* page 17, lines 18-23.

The system further includes means for eliciting from each user search criteria for searching each of said third-party sources of intellectual property listings. *E.g.*, Specification, page 9, lines 2-10; *id* page 13, line 10 through page 15, line 16; *id* page 16, lines 10-19; and page 18, lines 4-6.

The system further includes means for designating first and second memory storage areas for storage of intellectual property listings. *E.g.*, Specification, page 9, lines 2-10; *id* page 13, line 10 through page 15, line 16; *id* page 19, lines 22-23; Figure 4A, step 410; and Figure 2B, elements 30 and 34.

The system further includes means for taking a snapshot of each of said third-party sources of intellectual property listings. *E.g.*, Specification, page 9, lines 2-10; *id* page 13, line 10 through page

15, line 16; *id* page 19, line 23 through page 20, line 2; Figure 2B, element 26; and Figure 4A, step 415.

The system further includes means for storing said snapshots in said first memory storage area. *E.g.*, Specification, page 9, lines 2-10; *id* page 13, line 10 through page 15, line 16; *id* page 20, line 2; Figure 2B, element 24; and Figure 4A, step 420.

The system further includes means for reformatting each of said snapshots in a predetermined format. *E.g.*, Specification, page 9, lines 2-10; *id* page 13, line 10 through page 15, line 16; *id* page 20, lines 2-3; and Figure 2B, element 24.

The system further includes means for storing said reformatted snapshots in said second memory storage area. *E.g.*, Specification, page 9, lines 2-10; *id* page 13, line 10 through page 15, line 16; *id* page 20, lines 3-4; and Figure 4A, step 430.

Claim 50

Claim 50 is directed to a method of searching intellectual property listings online. The method includes maintaining a user-interface site accessible by a plurality of users. *E.g.*, Specification, page 9, lines 1-11; *id* page 14, lines 7-16; *id* page 17, lines 17-18; and Figure 3A, step 310.

The method further includes designating first and second memory storage areas for storage of intellectual property listings. *E.g.*, Specification, page 19, lines 22-23; and Figure 4A, step 410.

The method further includes taking a snapshot of each of a plurality of third-party sources of intellectual property listings searchable online. *E.g.*, Specification, page 20, line 1; and Figure 4A, step 415.

The method further includes storing said snapshots in said first memory storage area. *E.g.*, Specification, page 20, line 2; and Figure 4A, step 420.

The method further includes reformatting each of said snapshots in a predetermined format. *E.g.*, Specification, page 20, lines 2-3; and Figure 4A, step 425.

The method further includes storing said reformatted snapshots in said second memory storage area. *E.g.*, Specification, page 20, lines 3-4; and Figure 4A, step 430.

Claim 51

Claim 51 is directed to a system for searching intellectual property listings online. The system includes means for maintaining a user-interface site accessible by a plurality of users. *E.g.*, Specification, page 9, lines 2-10; *id* page 13, line 10 through page 15, line 16; *id* page16, lines 10-11; Figure 2B, element 13; and Figure 3A, step 310.

The system further includes means for designating first and second memory storage areas for storage of intellectual property listings. *E.g.*, Specification, page 9, lines 2-10; *id* page 13, line 10 through page 15, line 16; *id* page 19, lines 22-23; Figure 4A, step 410; and Figure 2B, elements 30 and 34.

The system further includes means for taking a snapshot of each of a plurality of third-party sources of intellectual property listings searchable online. *E.g.*, Specification, page 9, lines 2-10; *id* page 13, line 10 through page 15, line 16; *id* page 19, line 23 through page 20, line 2; Figure 2B, element 26; and Figure 4A, step 415.

The system further includes means for storing said snapshots in said first memory storage area. *E.g.*, Specification, page 9, lines 2-10; *id* page 13, line 10 through page 15, line 16; *id* page 20, line 2; Figure 2B, element 24; and Figure 4A, step 420.

The system further includes means for reformatting each of said snapshots in a predetermined format. *E.g.*, Specification, page 9, lines 2-10; *id* page 13, line 10 through page 15, line 16; *id* page 20, lines 2-3; and Figure 2B, element 24.

The system further includes means for storing said reformatted snapshots in said second memory storage area. *E.g.*, Specification, page 9, lines 2-10; *id* page 13, line 10 through page 15, line 16; *id* page 20, lines 3-4; and Figure 4A, step 430.

Claim 52

Claim 52 is directed to a method of searching intellectual property listings online. The method includes designating first and second memory storage areas for storage of intellectual property listings. *E.g.*, Specification, page 19, lines 22-23; and Figure 4A, step 410.

The method further includes taking a snapshot of each of a plurality of third-party sources of intellectual property listings searchable online. *E.g.*, Specification, page 20, line 1; and Figure 4A, step 415.

The method further includes storing said snapshots in said first memory storage area. *E.g.*, Specification, page 20, line 2; and Figure 4A, step 420.

The method further includes reformatting each of said snapshots in a predetermined format. *E.g.*, Specification, page 20, lines 2-3; and Figure 4A, step 425.

The method further includes storing said reformatted snapshots in said second memory storage area. *E.g.*, Specification, page 20, lines 3-4; and Figure 4A, step 430.

The method further includes searching through said reformatted snapshots in said second memory storage area for matches with a user search criteria. *E.g.*, Specification, page 20, lines 18-20; and Figure 4B, step 470.

Claim 53

Claim 53 is directed to a system for searching intellectual property listings online. The system includes means for designating first and second memory storage areas for storage of intellectual property listings. *E.g.*, Specification, page 9, lines 2-10; *id* page 13, line 10 through page 15, line 16; *id* page 19, lines 22-23; Figure 4A, step 410; and Figure 2B, elements 30 and 34.

The system further includes means for taking a snapshot of each of a plurality of third-party sources of intellectual property listings searchable online. *E.g.*, Specification, page 9, lines 2-10; *id* page 13, line 10 through page 15, line 16; *id* page 19, line 23 through page 20, line 2; Figure 2B, element 26; and Figure 4A, step 415.

The system further includes means for storing said snapshots in said first memory storage area. *E.g.*, Specification, page 9, lines 2-10; *id* page 13, line 10 through page 15, line 16; *id* page 20, line 2; Figure 2B, element 24; and Figure 4A, step 420.

The system further includes means for reformatting each of said snapshots in a predetermined format. *E.g.*, Specification, page 9, lines 2-10; *id* page 13, line 10 through page 15, line 16; *id* page 20, lines 2-3; and Figure 2B, element 24.

The system further includes means for storing said reformatted snapshots in said second memory storage area. *E.g.*, Specification, page 9, lines 2-10; *id* page 13, line 10 through page 15, line 16; *id* page 20, lines 3-4; and Figure 4A, step 430.

The system further includes means for searching through said reformatted snapshots in said second memory storage area for matches with a user search criteria. *E.g.*, Specification, page 9, lines 2-10; *id* page 13, line 10 through page 15, line 16; *id* page 20, lines 18-21; and Figure 2B, element 24.

Claim 66

Claim 66 is directed to a method of searching intellectual property listings online. The method includes making available to a user a software application for installment (installation) on said user's computing device. *E.g.*, Specification, page 10, line 22-23; and *id* page 16, line 16. The application includes instructions to execute a query as specified by said user, search predetermined Internet sites and exchanges, display search results to said user via said terminal, said search results comprising one or more intellectual property listings, and enable said user to indicate a listing of interest. *E.g.*, Specification, page 11, lines 7-12; and *id* page 16, lines 18-23.

The method further includes assigning a transaction manager to contact said user and the source of said listing to facilitate a desired transaction related to said listing of interest. *E.g.*, Specification, page 11, lines 12-14; and *id* page 16, line 23 through page 17, line 3.

Claim 70

Claim 70 is directed to a system for searching intellectual property listings online. The system includes means for maintaining a user-interface site accessible by a plurality of users. *E.g.*, Specification, page 9, lines 2-17; and *id* page 13, line 10 through page 15, line 16.

The system further includes means for downloading a software application to a user's network terminal. *E.g.*, Specification, page 9, lines 2-10; *id* page 13, line 10 through page 15, line 16; *id* page 10, line 22-23; and *id* page 16, line 16. The application includes instructions to execute a query as specified by said user, search predetermined Internet sites and exchanges via said user-interface site, display search results to said user via said terminal, said search results comprising one or more intellectual property listings, and enable said user to indicate a listing of interest. *E.g.*, Specification, page 11, lines 7-12; and *id* page 16, lines 18-23.

The systems further includes means for assigning a transaction manager to contact said user and the source of said listing to facilitate a desired transaction related to said listing of interest. *E.g.*, Specification, page 9, lines 2-10; *id* page 13, line 10 through page 15, line 16; *id* page 11, lines 12-14; and *id* page 16, line 23 through page 17, line 3.

VI
CONCISE STATEMENT OF THE GROUNDS OF REJECTION

1. Claims 1-7, 11-16, 19, 20, and 39-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as reciting an abstract idea.

2. Claims 1, 4, 8-10, 20, 39, 45, 46, and 48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Lundberg, U.S. Patent Publication Number 2002/0091541 ("Lundberg" hereinafter).

3. Claims 21-38 and 49-53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Document Number 2002/0095368 ("Tran" hereinafter).

4. Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 11-20, 40-44, 47, 66-72, and 86-88 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lundberg in view of Tran.

VII
ARGUMENT

A. Rejections of Claims 1-7, 11-16, 19, 20, and 39-44 Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

The Final Office Action rejected claims 1-7, 11-16, 19, 20, and 39-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for purportedly "only recit[ing] an abstract idea." Final Office Action, at page 2. In particular, the Final Office Action stated that "[t]he recited steps . . . do[] not apply, involve, use, or advance the technological arts since all the recited steps can be performed in the mind of the user or by use of a pencil and paper. These steps only constitute an idea of how to search intellectual property listings. There is not positive recitation of technology in the body of the claims." *Id.*

Applicant understands that the section 101 rejection is based on the understanding that a method claim must recite some technology employed in performing at least some of the steps. The Final Office Action does not offer any authority in support of this premise. Applicant respectfully submits that the premise is false.

Whether the steps of the methods can be performed mentally or using pencil and paper is not determinative of the claims' status as patentable subject matter. "The inclusion in a patent of a process that may be performed by a person, but that also is capable of being performed by a machine, is not fatal to patentability." *Alco Standard Corp. v. Tennessee Valley Authority*, 808 F.2d 1490, 1 U.S.P.Q.2d 1337 (Fed. Cir. 1986), *cert. dismissed*, 483 U.S. 1052 (1987).

Furthermore, a process that merely manipulates an abstract idea or performs a purely

mathematical algorithm – which characterization does not apply to claims in issue here – falls within statutory subject matter if it is limited to a practical application of the idea or algorithm in the technological arts. MPEP § 2106(IV)(B)(2)(b)(ii) (*citing In re Alappat*, 33 F.3d 1526, 1543 (Fed. Cir. 1994)). "A claim is limited to a practical application when the method, as claimed, produces a concrete, tangible and useful result." MPEP § 2106(IV)(B)(2)(b)(ii) (*citing AT&T Corp. v. Excel Communications, Inc.*, 172 F.3d 1352, 1358, 50 U.S.P.Q.2d 1447, 1452 (Fed. Cir. 1991)). "Likewise, a machine claim is statutory when the machine, as claimed, produces a concrete, tangible and useful result." MPEP § 2106(IV)(B)(2)(b)(ii) (*citing State St. Bank & Trust Co. v. Signature Fin. Group, Inc.*, 149 F.3d at 1373)). In the methods of claims 1 and 39, third-party sources of listings are searched according to user-provided search criteria, a resulting set of listings is presented to the user, and an identification of one or more of the listings in the resulting set that are of interest to the user is received from the user. These are concrete, tangible, and useful results, not mere abstractions.

Applicant also notes that it is not at all clear how the step of "maintaining a user-interface site" of the claims in issue here can be performed solely "in the mind of the user or by use of a pencil and paper," as the Final Office Action contends. The word "site" is used throughout the Specification to refer to a website or computer portal, particularly when this term is modified by "user-interface." Therefore, the step of "maintaining a user-interface site" necessarily uses a computer-based technology.

For these reasons, claims 1-7, 11-16, 19, 20, and 39-44 fall within patentable subject matter, Applicant respectfully requests reversal of the section 101 rejections.

B. Rejection of Claims 1 and 39 as Being Anticipated by Lundberg

Claims 1 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Lundberg. According to the Final Office Action, Lundberg teaches all limitations of independent claim 1 in figures 1 and 2, and in numbered paragraphs 0007 and 0009.

Claim 1 recites a step of "establishing a connection to a plurality of third-party sources of intellectual property listings available for transacting." Claim 39 recites a similar step of "establishing a connection to a plurality of third-party sources of said goods or services available for transacting." Lundberg does not disclose listings available for transacting. Lundberg describes

> retrieving or selecting a set of IP asset records from a source database of IP asset records 16 (FIG. 1) for example including all patents or trademarks issued or handled by an organization such as the United States Patent & Trademark Office, or the European Patent Office, or any other country's patent and trademark offices.

Lundberg, par. 0007. The United States Patent & Trademark Office, the European Patent Office, and patent and trademark offices of other countries do not list intellectual property that is necessarily available for transacting. To the contrary, official patent and trademark databases typically list all or most patent documents or trademarks. In such databases, no distinction is made between the patents that are available for transacting (*e.g.*, sale or license) and those that are not available for transacting. Official patent and trademark databases are not "sources of intellectual property listings available

for transacting." They are sources of intellectual property records, not of listings available for transacting.

Applicant has argued this point on a previous occasion. In response, the Final Office Action noted that "transaction" can be understood to be a "discrete activity within a computer system such as an entry of a customer order or an update of an inventory item. Transactions are usually associated with database management, order entry, and other online systems." Final Office Action, page 19 (citing Microsoft Computer Dictionary). The Final Office Action then contended that "Lundberg discloses an Internet based method and system for organizing records into user portfolios by retrieving or selecting a set of IP asset records from a source database of IP records [0007]. This is a discrete activity within a computer system." *Id.* This contention cannot stand because a person skilled in the relevant art and informed by the specification would not understand the meaning of "transacting" as referring to "discrete activity within a computer."

The Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit has recently observed that "claims, of course, do not stand alone. Rather, they are part of 'a fully integrated instrument,' . . . consisting principally of a specification that concludes with the claims. For that reason, claims 'must be read in view of the specification, of which they are a part.'" *Phillips v. AWH Corp.*, 415 F.3d 1303, 75 U.S.P.Q.2D 1321, 2005 U.S. App. LEXIS 13954, *28-29 (Fed. Cir. 2005) (*en banc*) (internal citation omitted).[1] The "specification 'is always highly relevant to the claim construction analysis. Usually, it is

[1] The *Phillips* opinion issued after the Final Office Action.

dispositive; it is the single best guide to the meaning of a disputed term.'" *Phillips*, 2005 U.S. App. LEXIS at *29 (*quoting Vitronics Corp. v. Conceptronic, Inc.*, 90 F.3d 1576, 1582 (Fed. Cir. 1996)).

This principle is neither new nor limited to construction of claims in issued patents. It is well-established and equally applicable in the context of patent prosecution. *See In re Fout*, 675 F.2d 297, 300, 213 U.S.P.Q. 532 (C.C.P.A. 1982) ("Claims must always be read in the light of the specification."). Note that the above verbiage from *In re Fout* was quoted with approval in the *Phillips* opinion by the *en banc* Court. *Phillips*, 2005 U.S. App. LEXIS at *29.

Here, the specification time and again employes various inflectional morphemes of the word "transact." In each instance, such usage refers to the most conventional meaning of "transaction": an exchange or transfer of goods, services, or funds. *See* MERRIAM-WEBSTER'S COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY (Elec. Ed., Ver. 1.2, 1994-96). Consider, for example, the opening sentence of the Summary of the Invention: "In accordance with the principles of the present invention, the above and other objectives are realized in a method, system and database for facilitating a one-stop shopping aggregation portal site on the Internet and a software application for searching, listing, marketing and transacting goods and services, especially intellectual property." Specification, at page 9, lines 2-5. Consider additional references to "shopping" on pages 6, 11-13, 15, and 23 of the Specification. Consider numerous references to "vending" (pages 3, 5, and 9), "buying" (pages 2 and 21), "selling" (pages 2 and 10), "purchasing" (page 3), "licensing" (pages 2, 5, and 6), and "marketing" (pages 2, 3, 6, 9, 11, 12, and 23). Consider also dozens of references to "exchanges" and "auctions" throughout

the Specification. In stark contrast, the Specification does not suggest even once that "transaction" refers to a "discrete activity within a computer" of the kind contemplated by the Final Office Action.

The Final Office Action ascribes a very specialized meaning to the term "transacting." Whether or not this specialized meaning can be supported by extrinsic sources in the abstract should not control claim interpretation here because the claims must be construed through the eyes of a person skilled in the art and informed by the specification. And the Specification unequivocally uses "transacting" in the sense of exchanging or transferring.

At least for this reason, independent claims 1 and 39 are not anticipated by Lundberg.

C. Rejection of Claim 45 as Being Anticipated by Lundberg

According to its preamble, claim 45 recites a system for searching for a desired one of many items offered on the Internet. Therefore, the items must be offered on the Internet. In the present context, the meaning of the verb "to offer" is to make available for sale or another transaction. See the argument above relating to claims 1 and 39. Because Lundberg does not disclose a system for searching for a desired one of many items offered – made available for sale or another transaction – on the Internet, Lundberg does not anticipate independent claim 45.

D. Rejection of Claims 21 and 49 as Being Unpatentable Over Tran

The Final Office Action acknowledged (at page 8) that Tran fails to disclose taking snapshots (and, consequently, fails to disclose reformatting and storing snapshots in different memory locations). The Final Office Action then argued that these limitations would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art "so as to be able to incorporate data from multiple sources in multiple formats, provide updates to the information and provide the information in a[n] easy to use format." This is the most general of motivations and it is apparently borrowed from the Applicant's disclosure.

While the Final Office Action points to Tran's paragraph 0027 as disclosing "multiple formats" and "multiple sources," this paragraph pertains to a background advertising window. The "multiple formats" appear to be formats of advertising links on a menu. As Tran puts it, "[t]he portal incorporates data from multiple sources in multiple formats and organizes it into a single, easy-to-use menu." Tran, par. 0027. Tran does not teach transforming data of the linked sites from one format to another. Instead, "[i]f the user clicks on an advertisement or news or related feature, the assistant will automatically launch the browser and take the user to the advertiser's site." Tran, par. 0027. The advertisers' sites would apparently display information in their own formats, which may differ from advertiser to advertiser. Tran neither discloses nor suggests reformatting snapshots of third-party sources of intellectual property listings.

The purported rationale to add limitations to Tran amounts to impermissible hindsight reconstruction of the invention.

E. Rejection of Claims 50-53 as Being Unpatentable Over Tran

Tran does not render claims 50-53 unpatentable because Tran does not disclose or suggest taking, reformatting, and storing snapshots in different memory locations, as discussed immediately above in relation to claim 49.

F. Rejection of Claims 66 and 70 as Being Unpatentable Over Tran

To facilitate discussion, claim 66 is set forth below:

66. (Original) A method of searching intellectual property listings online, comprising:

a) making available to a user a software application for installment on said user's computing device, said application comprising instructions to:

i. execute a query as specified by said user;

ii. search predetermined Internet sites and exchanges;

iii. display search results to said user via said terminal, said search results comprising one or more intellectual property listings; and

iv. enabling said user to indicate a listing of interest; and

b) assigning a transaction manager to contact said user and the source of said listing to facilitate a desired transaction related to said listing of interest.

In rejecting claims 66 and 70, the Final Office Action reasoned that the limitation of instructions that "execute a query as specified by said user" reads on Tran's disclosure of "search

engines [that] use the user profiles to search the web; profile information including company affiliations, occupations, etc [0010]." Applicant disagrees with this statement because "profile information" is not a "query." In computer context, a query is a "user's (or agent's) request for information, generally as a formal request to a database or search engine." Free On-Line Dictionary of Computing, *available online at* http://foldoc.doc.ic.ac.uk/foldoc/index.html. Tran does not teach executing a query, *i.e.*, executing a request for information.

Note that claim 68, which depends from claim 66, recites prompting the user for personal information, which may include a profile. Thus, claim 68 recites both (1) a query, and (2) a profile, which are distinct data items. Tran may disclose a profile, but not a query.

Because Tran does not disclose or suggest executing a query specified by the user, it does not render claim 66 obvious. Claim 70 recites limitations similar to those in claim 66, but in "means for" apparatus element form. Claim 70 should be patentable for the same reason as claim 66.

G. Rejection of Claim 3 as Being Unpatentable Over Lundberg and Tran

Claim 3 recites a step of securing from each of said plurality of third-party sources of intellectual property listings a fee-sharing agreement. The references apparently do not disclose or suggest a fee-sharing agreement. While the Final Office Action points to the disclosure of various fees by Tran, it does not point to a disclosure of fee sharing agreements by Tran or any of the other

references. For this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 3 is separately patentable over the references.

H. Rejection of Claim 8 as Being Anticipated by Lundberg

In rejecting claim 8, the Final Office Action asserted that Lundberg discloses all of the additional steps of claim 8 in numbered paragraph 0009, and in figures 1 and 2. In particular, the Final Office Action stated that Lundberg's Figures 1 and 2 disclose the steps of *reformatting said search criteria according to requirements of each of said plurality of third-party sources of intellectual property listings* because "records are stored in a database in binary code[, and t]o make data readable, it must be reformatted into human readable code." Final Office Action, at 5. This reasoning misconstrues the meaning of step "b" recited in claim 8.

First, note that the search criteria are reformatted according to requirements of the third-party sources of intellectual property listings. There is no need to reformat the search criteria to make them readable by a person – the third-party sources need not be (and generally are not) human. Furthermore, when a person inputs information into a computer using keystrokes, the input is immediately stored in machine-readable form. Such input need not necessarily be reformatted for use by a machine.

Second, note that the reformatting is performed according to requirements of plural sources.

For example, search criteria may need to be converted from a format "A" (provided to the portal) into a format B1 in accordance with the requirements of a first source of third-party listings. The same search criteria may need to be converted into a format B2 in accordance with the requirements of a second source of third-party listings. In contradistinction, conversion from "human readable code" into machine readable code could be a single conversion. It follows that conversion into multiple formats is not inherent in Lundberg.

Claim 8 recites a step of converting the search criteria according to requirements of sources, *i.e.*, two or more sources. Lundberg fails to disclose this limitation and therefore fails to anticipate claim 8.

I. Rejection of Claim 10 as Being Anticipated by Lundberg

Claim 10 recites a step of "reordering said intellectual property listings stored in said buffer memory according to predefined criteria prior to presentation thereof to said at least one of said plurality of users." Applicant has previously argued that Lundberg does not disclose this step, either explicitly or inherently. The listings may be displayed, for example, in the order they are received. In response to this argument, the Final Office Action points to Lundberg's disclosure (in paragraphs 0007 and 0009) of deletion and addition of records to a record set.

In the method of claim 10 of the present application, reordering is performed according to

predefined criteria and prior to presentation to the users. The prefix "pre" signifies "earlier than," "prior to," or "before." MERRIAM-WEBSTER'S COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY (Elec. Ed., Ver. 1.2, 1994-96). Consequently, "predefined" means "defined previously." Thus, the reordering criteria is defined prior to presentation to the user. Lundberg, however, teaches "grooming" records after presentation to the user:

> The client computer displays to the user on the client computer a list of records found in the search (26). Then user can optionally reject, using the client computer, selected records in the list.

Lundberg, par. 0009. For this reason, even if adding and deleting records is the same as "reordering,"[2] Lundberg does not disclose performing such "reordering" in accordance with predefined criteria prior to presentation to the user, and does not anticipate claim 10.

J. Rejection of Remaining Dependent Claims

Dependent claims not specifically addressed in the above arguments should be patentable at least for the reasons discussed in relation to their base and intervening claims.

[2] Applicant does not necessarily agree with this conclusion.

VIII
CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Appellant respectfully submits that all pending claims are patentable over references of record and respectfully requests reversal of the rejections.

Respectfully submitted,

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Anatoly S. Weiser, Reg. No. 43,229
Intellectual Property Legal Counsel
12526 High Bluff Drive, Ste 300
San Diego, CA 92130

APPENDIX – CLAIMS ON APPEAL

The following is a listing of the claims in the application. Claims 1-47, 49-53, 66-72, and 86-88 have been rejected and are involved in this Appeal.

1. (Previously Presented) A method of searching intellectual property listings, comprising:

a) maintaining a user-interface site accessible by a plurality of users;

b) establishing a connection to a plurality of third-party sources of intellectual property listings available for transacting;

c) receiving from at least one of said plurality of users search criteria for searching said plurality of third-party sources of intellectual property listings;

d) searching said plurality of third-party sources of intellectual property listings according to said search criteria;

e) presenting a resulting set of intellectual property listings to said at least one of said plurality of users; and

f) receiving from said at least one of said plurality of users an identification of those of said resulting set of intellectual property listings that are of interest to said at least one of said plurality of users.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

securing permission from each of said plurality of third-party sources of intellectual property listings for allowing a search of each said plurality of third-party sources.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 2, further comprising the step of:

securing from each of said plurality of third-party sources of intellectual property listings a fee-sharing agreement.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

establishing contact between said at least one of said plurality of users and those of said plurality of third-party sources including those of said resulting set of intellectual property listings which are of interest to said at least one of said plurality of users.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the step of establishing contact includes the steps of:

a) hyperlinking said user with said those of said plurality of third-party sources; and

b) transmitting to said those of said plurality of third-party sources a unique identifier for identifying said user-interface site as the source of a contemplated intellectual property transaction.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

providing said at least one of said plurality of users with a transaction manager to facilitate a contemplated intellectual property transaction.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 6, further comprising the step of:

having said transaction manager contact those of said plurality of third-party sources

including those of said resulting set of intellectual property listings which are of interest to said at least one of said plurality of users to facilitate said contemplated intellectual property transaction.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of searching said plurality of third-party sources includes the steps of:

a) designating a buffer memory for temporary storage of intellectual property listings matching said search criteria;

b) reformatting said search criteria according to requirements of each of said plurality of third-party sources of intellectual property listings;

c) searching through the intellectual property listings of said each of said plurality of third-party sources for matches with said respective reformatted search criteria; and

d) collecting such intellectual property listings that match said reformatted criteria and storing said listings in said buffer memory.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 8, further comprising the step of:

reformatting said intellectual property listings stored in said buffer memory in a predetermined format prior to presentation thereof to said at least one of said plurality of users.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 8, further comprising the step of:

reordering said intellectual property listings stored in said buffer memory according to predefined criteria prior to presentation thereof to said at least one of said plurality of users.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

making available to said at least one of said plurality of users analytical tools for valuation and analysis of the intellectual property.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

making available to said user escrow services related to a contemplated intellectual property transaction.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising step of:

making available to said user title insurance covering the intellectual property which is the subject of a contemplated intellectual property transaction.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step:

making available to said user patent validity insurance covering the intellectual property which is the subject of a contemplated intellectual property transaction.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

making available to said user consulting services related to a contemplated intellectual property transaction.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

making available to said user legal services related to a contemplated intellectual property transaction.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein step of searching said plurality of third-party sources includes the steps of:

a) designating first and second memory storage areas for storage of intellectual property listings;

b) taking a snapshot of each of said third-party sources of intellectual property listings;

c) storing said snapshots in said first memory storage area;

d) reformatting each of said snapshots in a predetermined format;

e) storing said reformatted snapshots in said second memory storage area;

f) taking a new snapshot of one of said third-party sources of intellectual property listings;

g) comparing said new snapshot with said snapshot of the same third-party source in said first memory storage area and identifying any changes;

h) reformatting said changes in said predetermined format;

i) updating the corresponding said reformatted snapshot in said second memory storage area with said reformatted changes;

j) replacing said snapshot in said first memory storage area with said corresponding new snapshot; and

k) repeating steps f) through j) for each of said plurality of third-party sources of intellectual

property listings.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

a) designating a buffer memory for temporary storage of intellectual property listings matching said search criteria;

b) searching through said reformatted snapshots in said second memory storage area for matches with said search criteria; and

c) collecting such intellectual property listings that match said criteria and storing said listings in said buffer memory.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said third-party sources are Internet auction sites.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said user-interface site is a website.

21. (Previously Presented) A method of searching intellectual property listings online, comprising the steps of:

a) maintaining a user-interface site accessible by a plurality of users;

b) maintaining access to a predetermined set of third-party sources of intellectual property listings searchable online;

c) eliciting from each user search criteria for searching each of said third-party sources of intellectual property listings;

d) designating first and second memory storage areas for storage of intellectual property listings;

e) taking a snapshot of each of said third-party sources of intellectual property listings;

f) storing said snapshots in said first memory storage area;

g) reformatting each of said snapshots in a predetermined format;

h) storing said reformatted snapshots in said second memory storage area; and

h1) searching through said reformatted snapshots in said second memory storage area for matches with the user search criteria.

22. (Original) The method of Claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

i) taking a new snapshot of one of said third-party sources of intellectual property listings;

j) comparing said new snapshot with said snapshot of the same third-party source in said first memory storage area and identifying any changes;

k) reformatting said changes in said predetermined format;

l) updating the corresponding said reformatted snapshot in said second memory storage area with said reformatted changes;

m) replacing said snapshot in said first memory storage area with said corresponding new snapshot;

n) repeating steps e) through m) for each of said predetermined set of third-party sources of intellectual property listings; and

o) repeating at least once steps e) through n).

23. (Original) The method of Claim 22, further comprising the steps of:

p) presenting a resulting set of intellectual property listings to said user; and

q) eliciting from said user an identification of those intellectual property listings which are of interest.

24. (Original) The method of Claim 23, further comprising the step of:

r) securing permission from each of said third-party sources of intellectual property listings allowing search of said third-party sources and presenting listings therefrom to said user.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 24, further comprising the step of:

s) securing from each of said third-party sources of intellectual property listings a fee-sharing agreement in respect of any fees paid as a result of transactions arising out of contacts initially made through said user-interface site.

26. (Original) The method of Claim 23, further comprising the step of:

r) establishing contact between said user and the third party maintaining said intellectual property listings which are of interest.

27. (Original) The method of Claim 26, wherein said establishing contact comprises the steps of:

1) hyperlinking said user with said third party maintaining said intellectual property listings

which are of interest; and

2) transmitting to said third party a unique identifier, identifying said user-interface site as the source of a contemplated intellectual property transaction.

28. (Original) The method of Claim 23, further comprising the step of:

r) providing said user with a transaction manager to facilitate a contemplated intellectual property transaction.

29. (Original) The method of Claim 28, further comprising the step of:

s) said transaction manager contacting said third party maintaining the listings of the intellectual property being of interest to said user to facilitate said transaction.

30. (Original) The method of Claim 23, further comprising the steps of:

r) designating a buffer memory for temporary storage of intellectual property listings matching said search criteria elicited from said user;

s) searching through said reformatted snapshots in said second memory storage area for matches with said search criteria; and

t) collecting such intellectual property listings that match said criteria and storing said listings in said buffer memory.

31. (Original) The method of Claim 30, further comprising the step of:

u) reformatting said intellectual property listings stored in said buffer memory in a predetermined format prior to presentation thereof to said user.

32. (Original) The method of Claim 30, further comprising the step of reordering said intellectual property listings stored in said buffer memory according to predefined criteria prior to presentation thereof to said user.

33. (Original) The method of Claim 23, further comprising the step of making available to said user analytical tools for valuation and analysis of the intellectual property, wherein said analytical tools are not available from the third party maintaining said intellectual property listings which are of interest.

34. (Original) The method of Claim 23, further comprising making available to said user escrow services related to a contemplated intellectual property transaction, wherein said services are not available from the third party maintaining said listings of said intellectual property which are of interest.

35. (Original) The method of Claim 23, further comprising the step of making available to said user title insurance covering the intellectual property which is the subject of a contemplated intellectual property transaction, wherein said title insurance is not available from the third party maintaining intellectual property listings which are of interest.

36. (Original) The method of Claim 23, further comprising the step of making available to said user patent validity insurance covering the intellectual property which is the subject of a contemplated intellectual property transaction, wherein said patent validity insurance is not available from the third party maintaining said intellectual property listings which are of interest.

37. (Original) The method of Claim 23, further comprising the step of making available to said user consulting services related to a contemplated intellectual property transaction.

38. (Original) The method of Claim 23, further comprising the step of making available to said user legal services related to a contemplated intellectual property transaction.

39. (Previously Presented) A method of searching listings of goods or services available for transacting, comprising:

a) maintaining a user-interface site accessible by a plurality of users;

b) establishing a connection to a plurality of third-party sources of said goods or services available for transacting;

c) receiving from at least one of said plurality of users search criteria for searching said plurality of third-party sources;

d) searching said plurality of third-party sources according to said search criteria;

e) presenting a resulting set of goods or services listings to said at least one of said plurality

of users; and

f) receiving from said at least one of said plurality of users an identification of those of said resulting set of goods or services listings that are of interest to said at least one of said plurality of users.

40. (Original) The method of Claim 39, wherein said goods comprise businesses available for sale, merger or acquisition.

41. (Original) The method of Claim 39, wherein said goods comprise venture capital available for investment.

42. (Original) The method of Claim 39, further comprising providing a transaction manager to facilitate a contemplated transaction between said user and the provider of said goods or services.

43. (Original) The method of Claim 39, wherein said third-party listings are comprised by Internet auction sites.

44. (Original) The method of Claim 39, wherein said user-interface site is a website.

45. (Original) A system for searching for a desired one of many items offered on the Internet, where said items are presented on third-party user-interface sites in multiple lists, said lists being in

differing formats, comprising:

a) means for hosting a user-interface site;

b) means for eliciting at least one identifying characteristic of the desired item from a user;

c) means for reformatting said identifying characteristic of the desired item elicited from said user in accordance with the requirements of each of said third-party user-interface sites;

d) means for searching each of said multiple lists to identify each item listed therein possessing said at least one identifying characteristic and compiling a list thereof;

e) means for reformatting at least one of said lists of items possessing said at least one identifying characteristic into a predetermined format; and

f) means for presenting said reformatted list to said user for further selection of the desired item.

46. (Original) The system as in Claim 45, wherein said means for hosting is a computer server.

47. (Original) The system as in Claim 45, wherein said hosted user-interface site is a website and said third-party user-interface sites comprise Internet auction sites.

48. (Canceled) A system for searching intellectual property listings online, comprising:

a) means for maintaining a user-interface site accessible by a plurality of users;

b) means for maintaining access to a predetermined set of third-party sources of intellectual property listings searchable online;

c) means for eliciting from each user search criteria for searching each of said third-party sources of intellectual property listings;

d) means for searching said predetermined set of third-party sources of intellectual property listings in accord with said search criteria elicited from said user;

e) means for presenting a resulting set of intellectual property listings to said user; and

f) means for eliciting from said user an identification of those listings of said set of intellectual property listings which are of interest.

49. (Original) A system for searching intellectual property listings online, comprising:

a) means for maintaining a user-interface site accessible by a plurality of users;

b) means for maintaining access to a predetermined set of third-party sources of intellectual property listings searchable online;

c) means for eliciting from each user search criteria for searching each of said third-party sources of intellectual property listings;

d) means for designating first and second memory storage areas for storage of intellectual property listings;

e) means for taking a snapshot of each of said third-party sources of intellectual property listings;

f) means for storing said snapshots in said first memory storage area;

g) means for reformatting each of said snapshots in a predetermined format; and

h) means for storing said reformatted snapshots in said second memory storage area.

50. (Original) A method of searching intellectual property listings online, comprising:

a) maintaining a user-interface site accessible by a plurality of users;

b) designating first and second memory storage areas for storage of intellectual property listings;

c) taking a snapshot of each of a plurality of third-party sources of intellectual property listings searchable online;

d) storing said snapshots in said first memory storage area;

e) reformatting each of said snapshots in a predetermined format; and

f) storing said reformatted snapshots in said second memory storage area.

51. (Original) A system for searching intellectual property listings online, comprising:

a) means for maintaining a user-interface site accessible by a plurality of users;

b) means for designating first and second memory storage areas for storage of intellectual property listings;

c) means for taking a snapshot of each of a plurality of third-party sources of intellectual property listings searchable online;

d) means for storing said snapshots in said first memory storage area;

e) means for reformatting each of said snapshots in a predetermined format; and

f) means for storing said reformatted snapshots in said second memory storage area.

52. (Previously Presented) A method of searching intellectual property listings online, comprising:

a) designating first and second memory storage areas for storage of intellectual property listings;

b) taking a snapshot of each of a plurality of third-party sources of intellectual property listings searchable online;

c) storing said snapshots in said first memory storage area;

d) reformatting each of said snapshots in a predetermined format;

e) storing said reformatted snapshots in said second memory storage area; and

f) searching through said reformatted snapshots in said second memory storage area for matches with a user search criteria.

53. (Previously Presented) A system for searching intellectual property listings online, comprising:

a) means for designating first and second memory storage areas for storage of intellectual property listings;

b) means for taking a snapshot of each of a plurality of third-party sources of intellectual property listings searchable online;

c) means for storing said snapshots in said first memory storage area;

d) means for reformatting each of said snapshots in a predetermined format;

e) means for storing said reformatted snapshots in said second memory storage area; and

f) means for searching through said reformatted snapshots in said second memory storage area for matches with a user search criteria.

Claims 54-65 (Canceled).

66. (Original) A method of searching intellectual property listings online, comprising:

a) making available to a user a software application for installment on said user's computing device, said application comprising instructions to:

i. execute a query as specified by said user;

ii. search predetermined Internet sites and exchanges;

iii. display search results to said user via said terminal, said search results comprising one or more intellectual property listings; and

iv. enabling said user to indicate a listing of interest; and

b) assigning a transaction manager to contact said user and the source of said listing to facilitate a desired transaction related to said listing of interest.

67. (Original) The method of Claim 66, further comprising maintaining a user-interface site accessible by a plurality of users for downloading said software application into said user's computing device.

68. (Original) The method of Claim 66, further comprising prompting said user for personal information, said information used by said software application to automatically register said user with a plurality of Internet auctions and exchanges.

69. (Original) The method of Claim 68, wherein said personal information comprises one or more of the user's name, the user's password, the name of a company, an address, a phone number, and an e-mail address.

70. (Original) A system for searching intellectual property listings online, comprising:

a) means for maintaining a user-interface site accessible by a plurality of users; and

b) means for downloading a software application to a user's network terminal, said application comprising instructions to:

i. execute a query as specified by said user;

ii. search predetermined Internet sites and exchanges via said user-interface site;

iii. display search results to said user via said terminal, said search results comprising one or more intellectual property listings; and

iv. enabling said user to indicate a listing of interest; and

c) means for assigning a transaction manager to contact said user and the source of said listing to facilitate a desired transaction related to said listing of interest.

71. (Original) The system of Claim 70, further comprising prompting said user for personal information, said information used by said software application to automatically register said user with a plurality of Internet auctions and exchanges.

72. (Original) The method of Claim 71, wherein said personal information comprises one or more of the user's name, the user's password, the name of a company, an address, a phone number, and an e-mail address.

Claims 73-85 (Canceled).

86. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein said goods or services are offered.

87. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein said goods or services are wanted.

88. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of third-party sources of intellectual property listings available for transacting comprises third-party sources selected from the group consisting of an exchange site and an auction site.